

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#68-78 Building Date: 1866

Building Name: Guy Cottage

Location: 4641 42nd Place, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Fair/Inaccessible

Description:

The Guy Cottage is a roughly T-shaped building, with hip roofs set perpendicularly at the ridge. The larger rectangular main block is to the south, with a narrower section extending to the north and forming the stem of the T. The west elevation of the house fronts on one of the oldest streets in Hyattsville; this principal west facade consists of the two-bay side elevation of the north wing, inset from the two-bay end wall of the main block. Entrance was in the second bay of the wing, now hidden by an enclosed porch. Windows of the house are 6/1 double hung sash, with plain narrow surrounds and no shutters. The first story is covered with beige stucco and the second with white asbestos shingle. The eaves of the roof give the only remaining indications of the building's Victorian Italianate decorative character: the deep soffits are supported by decorative openwork wooden brackets. The house has been considerably altered from its original appearance, but retains some vestiges of its Victorian Italianate decorative detail. It is the single survivor of five nearly identical cottages built in 1866, and the only remaining residential building in an area which is now devoted exclusively to commercial and industrial use.

Significance:

The Guy Cottage is the last surviving of five nearly identical cottages which were built as investment properties in Hyattsville immediately following the Civil War. In 1866, B. F. Guy and Thomas Parker subdivided 10 acres of land in the triangle between the B & O Railroad and the Washington and Baltimore Turnpike; in the same year they erected a row of five cottages in the southerly part of the triangle. These nearly identical Italianate style cottages were apparently leased to Washington families who wished to spend time outside the city, and this practice continued for many years. The cottages stood side by side on five lots facing the railroad and the area was known as "Cottage Square"; on the sixth and southernmost lot, the Methodist Episcopal Church South was built in 1869. The subject cottage stood on Lot #2 of the five adjoining lots and was the second lot east of the railroad. The subject building is the single surviving Guy Cottage, and although it has undergone alteration, it retains some of its original Victorian trim and its original footprint is still recognizable. It is one of the few surviving reminders of the early years of Hyattsville's development.

Acreage: 7320 square feet

Guy Cottage

PG#68-78

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition - AD 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance - AD 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC SITES

Survey No. PG#68-78

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Guy Cottage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4641 42nd Place not for publication

city, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sung Sam Lee

street & number 4641 42nd Place telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville state and zip code MD 20781

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4476

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 170

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No.

PG#68-78

Condition☐ excellent☒ good☒ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Guy Cottage is a roughly T-shaped building, with hip roofs set perpendicularly at the ridge. It has been considerably altered from its original appearance, but retains some vestiges of its Victorian Italianate decorative detail. It is the single survivor of five nearly identical cottages built in 1866, and the only remaining residential building in an area which is now devoted exclusively to commercial and industrial use.

The larger rectangular main block is to the south, with a narrower section extending to the north and forming the stem of the T. The west elevation of the house fronts on one of the oldest streets in Hyattsville; this principal west facade consists of the two-bay side elevation of the north wing (on the left), inset from the two-bay end wall of the main block (on the right).

Entrance was in the second bay of the wing; that entrance is now hidden by an enclosed porch which fills the corner formed by the main block and wing. The door, originally exterior, has a two-light transom, and dentilled molding below upper glazing. The porch which now encloses this original entrance is one story high with hip roof; it is lighted by four side-by-side windows on the west and two on the north. A jalousied door to the south of the four windows leads into this enclosed porch.

Windows of the house are 6/1 double hung sash, with plain narrow surrounds and no shutters. The first story is covered with beige stucco and the second with white asbestos shingle. There is a slim exterior brick chimney at the north end of the north wing; the chimney is flanked by two small windows on the first story. The eaves of the roof give the only remaining indications of the building's Victorian Italianate decorative character: the deep soffits are supported by decorative openwork wooden brackets.

There are two additions to the (east) rear of the house: a one-story shed-roof storage space which fills the northeast corner formed by the main block and wing, and a one-story shed-roof addition on the east elevation of the main block.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG#68-78

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1866 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Guy Cottage is the last surviving of five nearly identical cottages which were built as investment properties in Hyattsville immediately following the Civil War. Although altered from its original appearance, it is important as the last reminder of the earliest period of Hyattsville's development.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Christopher C. Hyatt had purchased property north of Bladensburg at the intersection of the old Washington and Baltimore Turnpike with the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He built his brick mansion (no longer standing) on the west side of the railroad, and opened a store directly across the tracks. In 1859, Hyatt was appointed postmaster of the new crossroads community which thenceforth was to bear his name.¹

It was not until 1873 that Hyatt surveyed and platted a portion of his property into building lots, and within a few years the growing community of Hyattsville was developing into a desirable place of residence for commuters into the Capital City. Before this time, during the period of the Civil War, Hyattsville was still just a small crossroads settlement at the Turnpike/railroad intersection, noted for several commercial

¹ Prince George's County Deeds JBB#1:280; JBB#2:481; JBB#4:113,337; CSM#3:476-477.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#68-78

See notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7320 square feetQuadrangle name Washington EastQuadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone	Easting	Northing							

B

Zone	Easting	Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #2, Cottage Square

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historianorganization P.G. Historic Preservation Commission date June 1993street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 301-952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHOC
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. PG#68-78

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page ²

Interior moldings are of plain board. Inside the entrance, the open-string stair rises toward the south in the main block. It has a square panelled newel.

The Guy Cottage is located in an area of Hyattsville characterized by dense commercial and industrial activity. The house stands in a small yard with grass and small shrubs, enclosed in front by a chain link fence. In the rear, a high stockade fence encloses the business use area.

Immediately to the north is another building which was originally the exact mirror image of the subject house, but which has recently been renovated and modernized to the extent that its original lines and T-shape footprint can no longer be recognized. These two buildings were the northernmost of five nearly identical cottages built as investment properties in 1866.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#68-78

Section 8 Page 2

enterprises as well as for the substantial residences of a few successful entrepreneurs, e.g., C. C. Hyatt and B. F. Guy.²

Like Hyatt, Benjamin Franklin Guy had had commercial success; he built a handsome and substantial residence (no longer standing) a short distance east of both Turnpike and railroad, and in the years immediately following the Civil War, began several real estate development ventures. In 1866, in partnership with Thomas Parker, Guy acquired 10 acres in the triangle between the B & O Railroad and the Turnpike a short distance south of their intersection. Guy and Parker had the area surveyed and subdivided, and in the southerly part of this triangle, they erected a row of five cottages, fronting on the public road which ran northwest toward the home of C. C. Hyatt. By 1867, tax records show Guy and Parker's ownership of "10 acres improved by 5 cottages", assessed at a total value of \$8000.³ These nearly identical Italianate style cottages were apparently leased to Washington families who wished to spend time outside the city, and this practice continued for many years. The cottages stood side by side on five lots facing the railroad and the area was known as "Cottage Square"; on the sixth and southernmost lot, the Methodist Episcopal Church South was built in 1869.

The subject cottage stood on Lot #2 of the five adjoining lots, and was the second lot east of the railroad. At 7330 square feet, Lot #2 was slightly larger than the other four lots (which ranged between 4817 and 6322 square feet). Although the five cottages were presumably built from the same plan, the subject cottage and lot were assessed at a higher value than the other four.⁴

² G. M. Hopkins, Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington including the County of Prince George, Maryland, 1878, "Historical Sketch"; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1850, 1861-68; Federal Census for Prince George's County, Enumeration District #2, 1850, 1860, 1870.

³ Prince George's County Tax Assessments, Election District #2, 1866-1871; Prince George's County Land Records HB#1:146, JWB#:519; 1873 plat of "Cottage Square", Drawer #11, Plat #11, Prince George's County Courthouse.

⁴ Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888; Plat of "Cottage Square", 1873, Drawer #11, Plat #11, Prince George's County Courthouse; see also plat filed in Equity #1013.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG#68-78

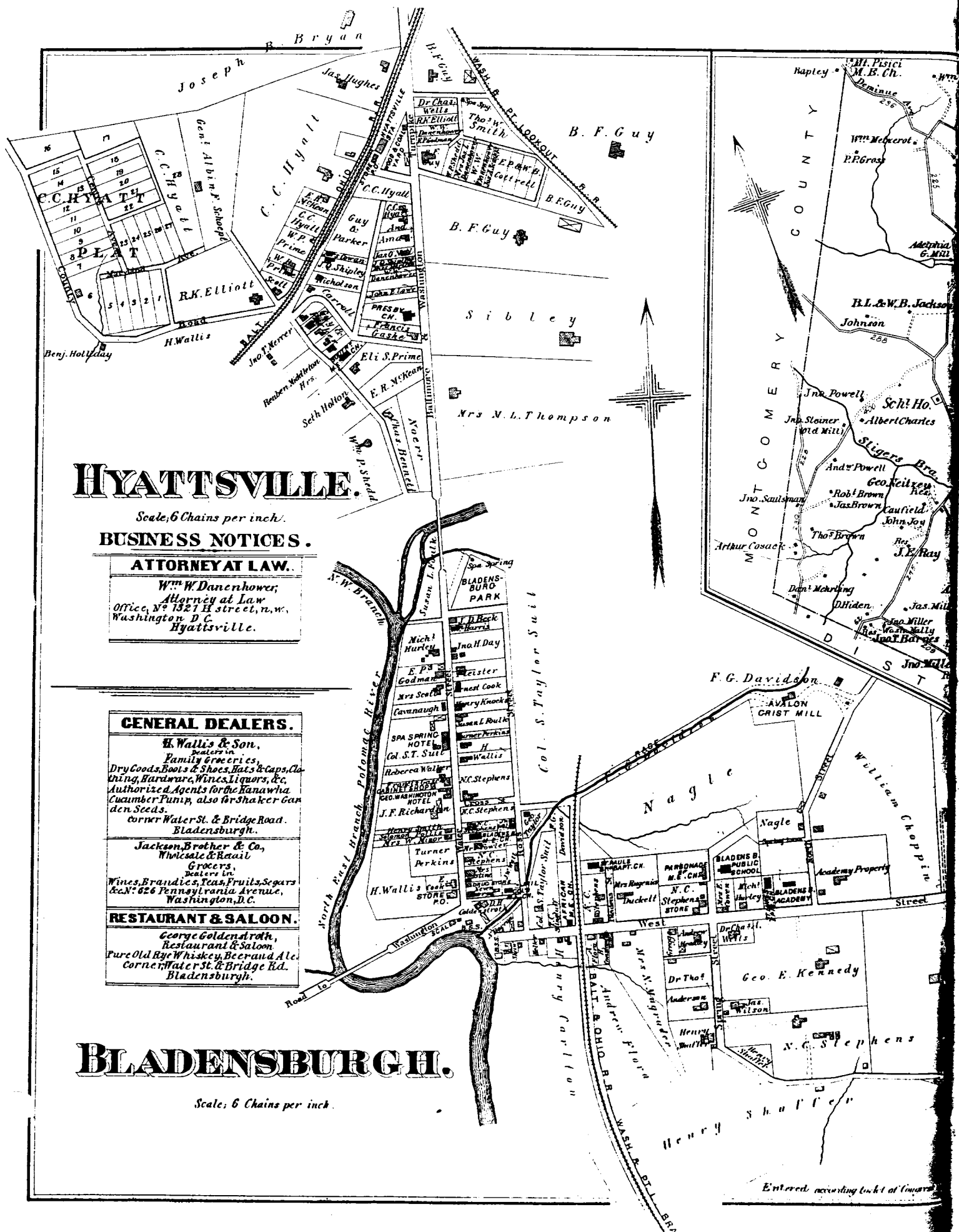
Section 8 Page 3

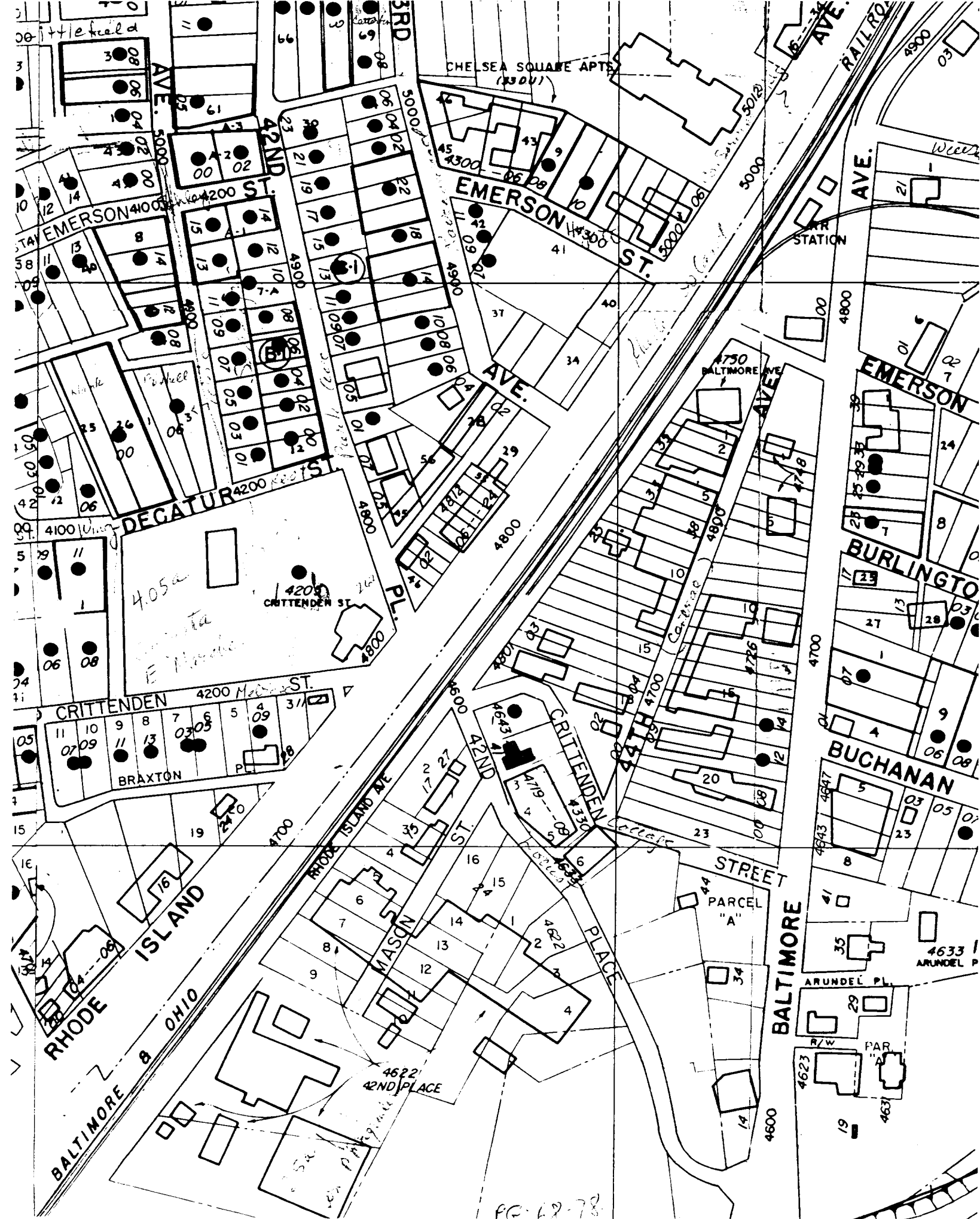
In 1875 Guy and Parker sold Lots 1 and 2 of Cottage Square to Fannie Hyatt (Mrs. C. C. Hyatt), who continued to rent out the cottages. After the death of her husband, Fannie Hyatt sold the two cottage lots (in 1887) to Andrew Aman, member of another prominent business family of Hyattsville.⁵ The Aman family continued to rent out the two cottages, and it was not until well into the twentieth century that the subject house was sold separately and became an owner-occupied residence.⁶

By the middle of this century, Cottage Square had become a commercial area; the Methodist church was relocated on Baltimore Avenue, and only the two northernmost of the five cottages remained standing. In recent years, the cottage on Lot #1, which had been a mirror-image version of the subject cottage, was drastically renovated to serve as a commercial building; it no longer bears any resemblance to its original form. Although the subject building on Lot #2, the single surviving Guy Cottage, has also undergone alteration, it retains some of its original Victorian trim and its original footprint is still recognizable. It therefore is one of the few surviving reminders of the early years of Hyattsville's development.

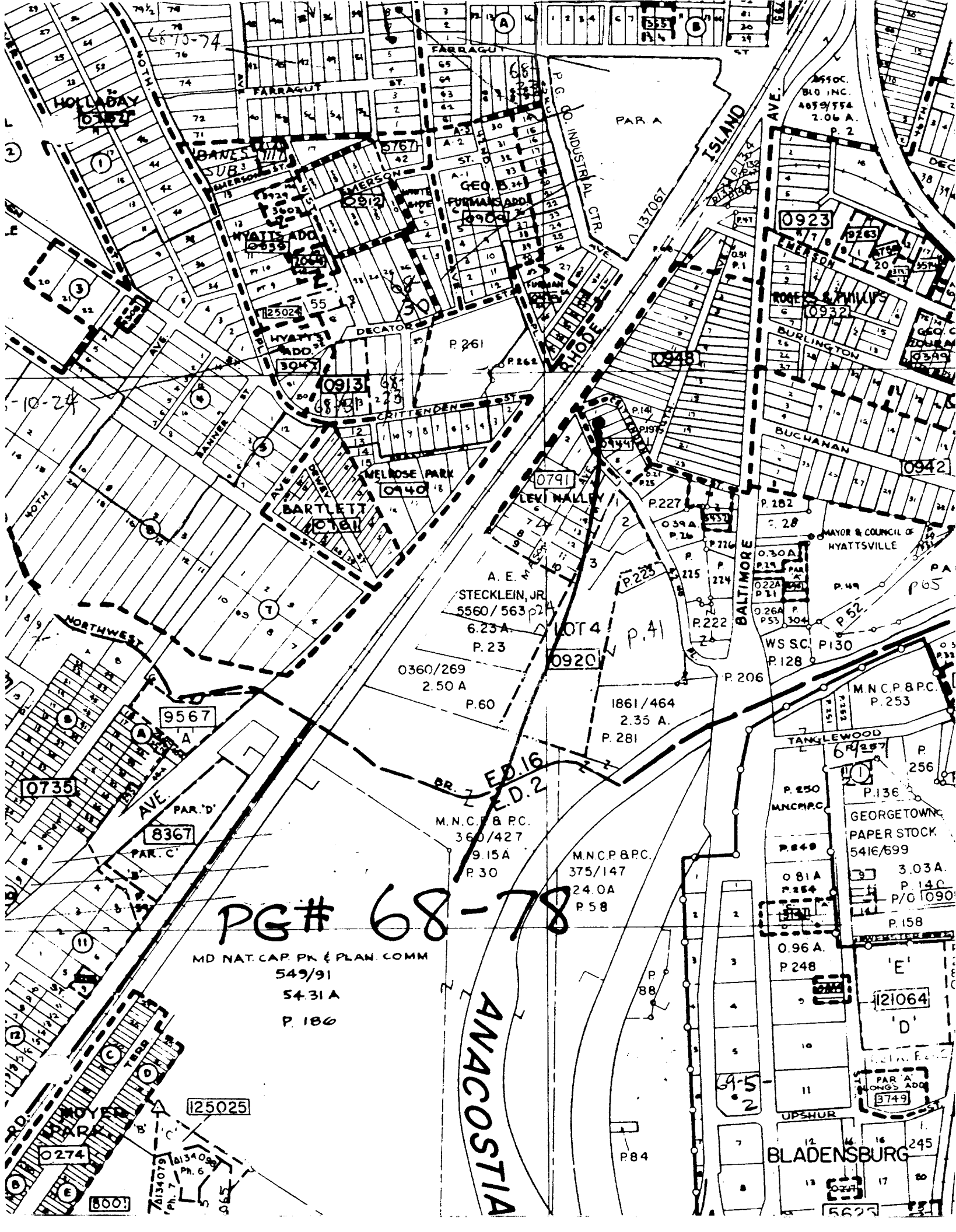
⁵ Prince George's County Deeds HB#11:640, JWB#3:255, 519; JWB#8:368.

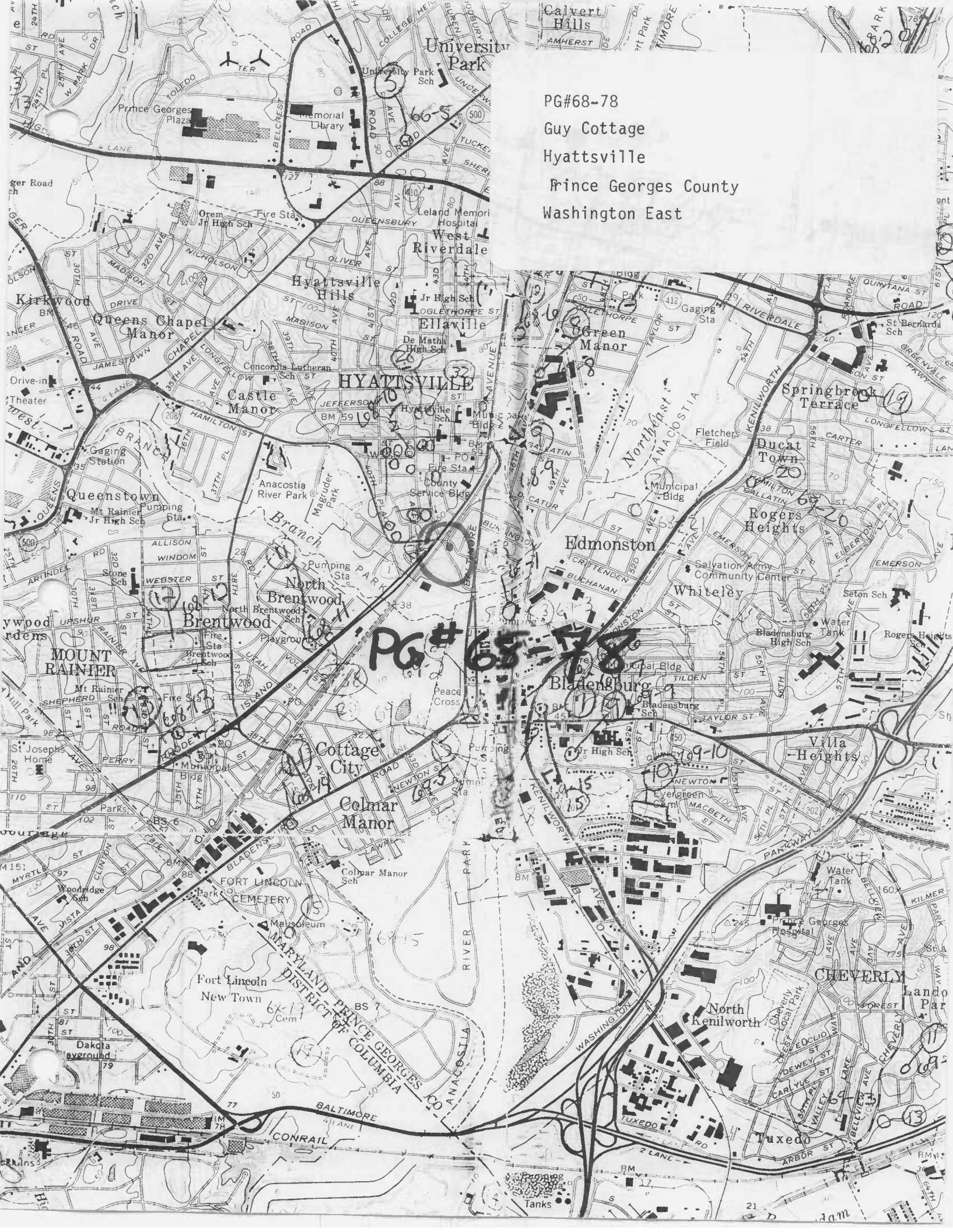
⁶ Prince George's County Deeds #67:139; Prince George's County Tax Assessments 1900-1946; Prince George's County Will CMH#7:782.





PG 68-78





PG#68-78

Guy Cottage

Hyattsville

Prince Georges County

Washington East



Long College

Prince Georges Co, MD

Susan H. Pearl

May 1992

MD SHPO

West facade from NW

173



Pg # 68-78

Lily Cottage
Prince George's Co.
MD

Saml. L. Peard

May 1552

MD SHPO

West facade from SW

273



Pl. # 68-78

Shy Caterpe
Prin's Herp's Co. MID
Susan St. Paul

May 1992

MD SHPO

Detail, west cornice

323